



Unlike previous months, January's meeting will be held at the C.A.C.A. Lodge in Chinatown

January 9, 2019

6:30PM(check-in and refreshments), 7:00PM (program) until 9:00PM
Chinese American Citizens Alliance LA Lodge (behind Phoenix Bakery)
415 Bamboo Lane
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Parking available on the street (meters run until 8PM) and at Bamboo Plaza and Mandarin Plaza. For any questions, please contact Eugene Moy or Susan Dickson through info@chssc.org.



Finding Chinese America/Finding America: A Route 66 Road Trip (and Beyond)

CHSSC Monthly Meeting photo presentation by Eugene Moy and Susan Sing

In Summer 2017, Susan and I decided to drive Route 66 to Chicago for the national convention of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, held on Labor Day weekend. In addition to taking in historic Route 66 sights, we determined to stop at every Chinese restaurant along the way, including a pilgrimage to Missouri to sample an iconic regional dish, Springfield Cashew Chicken. In Chicago, we toured the historic Chinatown and sampled other offerings in town, like deep dish pizza and locally made sausage.

On the way back, we swung south to visit family and friends, and to discover more history and food. We visited CHSSC member Major Elyssabeth Casteel at her Air Force post in Dayton, Ohio, visiting the Wright Brothers Museum while in town. We saw the birthplace of Abe Lincoln in Kentucky, but a few miles away we stopped at a Chinese grocery store, and had dinner at a Mexican restaurant. In Tennessee, we sampled Nashville hot chicken wings and toured an outstanding museum, the Country Music Hall of Fame. In Alabama, we saw an iron foundry and the remnants of the African American family quarters.

From Montgomery, we followed the Freedom Trail (in reverse) to Selma, the 54-mile route of the historic 1965 march led by civil rights leaders that followed the "Bloody Sunday" incident on the Edmund Pettus Bridge. We visited past CHSSC president Cy Wong at his home in Louisiana, my cousin Thomas Yee and family in Plano TX, and found new friends on the way.

But all along Route 66, and beyond, we found Chinese, Asian, and other immigrant heritage, we found our diverse American culture, and we will share what we found on our 6,000 mile journey.



President's Letter

The initial response to our capital campaign has been heart-warming.

Earlier this year the board decided to raise \$100,000 to repair and upgrade our Heritage Center. An anonymous donor pledged to match up to \$50,000 in donations

I am pleased to report that we have raised \$30,706.70 as of December 31, 2018.

Please go to page 5 for more information on how to donate to our capital campaign.

Best wishes in the New Year,

Susan Dickson
CHSSC President

Special Thanks to:

China Society
 Anna Gee
 Karen Kwan
 Tennyson Kwok
 Robert Lee
 Leong Family Trust
 Chong & Isobel Lew
 Margie Lew
 Tim & Pei Lu Liu
 Lila Quan
 Rita Takenouchi
 Harriet Woo
 June Woo
 Cynthia & Gary Young, in memory of
 Kwan Ying & Gin C. Young
 Ruth Seid Yue
 Kenneth Chan, major donor
 James Louie, major donor
 Eugene Moy & Susan Sing, major donors
 Ben & Doreen Nakayama, major donors
 Annie Siu, major donor
 Winston Young, major donor
 Gay Yuen, major donor



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MISSION STATEMENT

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California was organized in November 1975. The purposes of the Society are:

1. to bring together people with a mutual interest in the important history and historical role of Chinese and Chinese Americans in Southern California;
2. to pursue, preserve, and communicate knowledge of this history; and
3. to promote the heritage of the Chinese and Chinese-Americans community in support of a better appreciation of the rich, multicultural society of the United States.



Celebrating the end of 2018, and welcoming the New Year

A message from Eugene Moy, Membership Chair

It's the end of another successful year for CHSSC, and we couldn't have done it without support from **you, our members and friends**. We produced an outstanding array of programs, free of charge to the public. Our featured speakers and panels showed films, spoke about their publications and life experiences, and enriched us with real history content. We heard from filmmakers Arthur Dong, Renee Tajima-Pena, Janet Chen, Felicia Lowe, and Paula Madison; author John Jung enlightened us with his research journey, Professor July Phun shared her oral history program highlights, and a panel of former Chinese Drum and Bugle Corp/Imperial Dragons members shared their memories and family stories. We participated in the Golden Dragon Parade in Chinatown, the Archives Bazaar at USC, History Day LA at Azusa Pacific University, and co-hosted a variety of community events. Our annual Yosemite trip was delayed until October due to July fires, but nevertheless a hardy crew ascended Sing Peak to honor Tie Sing, Mountain Chef of the Sierras. A great new exhibition was designed and installed in August by Drum & Bugle Corps alumni in the middle room of our Heritage Center. Board members jumped in to help with the transition to new staff, and have overseen the commencement of important archival projects, supported by grants and new archives staff. We provided many walking tours for schools, community groups, L.A. City Planning and Metro staff. Students and researchers came to use our special collections library. Our very successful *Golden Spike Awards* dinner recognized Storytellers, in film and media.

Toward the end of this year, an announcement was made of a generous \$50,000 challenge donation that would match what we could raise toward capital improvements at our Heritage Center property, two Victorian (1886 and 1892) homes that serve as our offices, library, archives and exhibit rooms, and meeting and planning space.

So as we enter the New Year, I invite our members to renew, and friends to join, so that we can continue our important work, of preserving and sharing our story, our Chinese American history. Help us plan a journey to Promontory, Utah, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad, made possible by Chinese labor. We have other projects to finish, expand, or initiate. Please use the membership renewal form attached or on our web site at <https://chssc.org/support/membership/>. Please also consider a contribution to the Capital Improvements Campaign to help us achieve our \$50K match. Please join me in our journey into 2019!

Sincerely,
Eugene Moy
Membership Chair

Call for Submissions!

Last month, December 2018, marked the 75th anniversary of the Magnuson Act which repealed aspects of the Chinese Exclusion Act and allowed limited numbers of Chinese people to immigrate to the United States. To commemorate this event, the CHSSC welcomes you to share how the exclusionary laws directly or indirectly impacted your family's story.

On page 4, Laureen Hom, a member of CHSSC, writes about her ancestors and self-identifying as 2.5 generation Chinese American.

If interested, please send a written piece (50-250 words) to info@chssc.org accompanied by a relevant photo.



The Chinese Exclusion Act in Perspective: the Hom Family

By *Laureen Hom*

When asked about my background, I often say that I am a third generation Chinese American. My mom was the first in her family to be born in the United States, and my dad immigrated to the U.S. when he was 14-years-old. (Because of this difference between my parents, I sometimes tell people I am 2.5 generation, although that requires more explanation!) My self-identification as a third generation Chinese American is part of a longer, more complicated history of immigration, migration, and separation shaped by the exclusionary laws against Chinese Americans and immigrants.

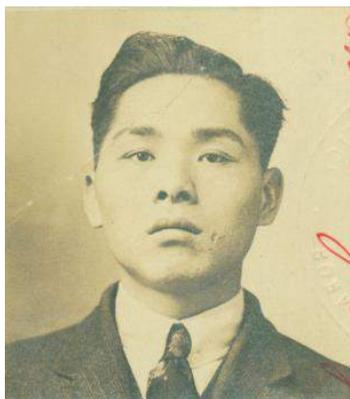
My family history is characterized as one of a legacy of family separation due to racial and legal exclusion across gender lines. Male relatives from both sides of my family came to the U.S. as far back as the late 1800s, and several generations found ways to immigrate despite the Chinese Exclusion Act. Most of them lived in the San Francisco area, and all of them had wives and families in China that they left when they went to the United States as laborers, taking jobs in agriculture and as laundrymen. While some would go back to China periodically and eventually spend their later lives back “home,” some of never returned to China and their families never saw them again. Even for the few who became U.S. citizens, sponsoring their wives was difficult, if not impossible, due to the accumulation of exclusionary laws banning Chinese women to immigrate, from the Page Act of 1875 to the Immigration Act of 1924.

It was not until after exclusionary laws were slowly struck down after World War II that the women on both sides of my family, and my dad and his siblings, were able to immigrate through family reunification, bringing three generations to the United States. My maternal grandmother arrived in the United States as a newlywed World War II “war bride” and pregnant with my mom in 1948. In

actuality, they were married for much longer, but knew that this was an opportunity to begin to bring the family to the United States. As a consequence, they had to leave my maternal uncle in China who was 9-years-old at the time and could not immigrate until over a decade later. Even as laws were opening Chinese immigration, my family still struggled with the legacy of exclusion and family separation as most recently as my parents’ generation.

Like many Chinese Americans, my family has a history of “paper sons,” meaning that fraudulent documents were used to “prove” blood-relations to Chinese Americans who already had valid citizenship as a means to gain citizenship. My maternal grandfather immigrated as a “paper son” of my great granduncle. My relatives on my father’s side also sold the birthright citizenship of family members to non-relatives. Through the Chinese Confession Program, my paternal great grandfather and maternal grandfather “confessed” their past immigration violations to reclaim their citizenship status and were able to eventually sponsor family members to come to the United States. While arguably an amnesty program, the burden was on my family and other Chinese Americans to show how they could be good citizens despite past laws that systematically and unfairly excluded them immigration and citizenship.

My family history cannot be captured succinctly through any one generational category and reflects the complexities of how we search for and define a Chinese American history given past racial exclusion that can often make this a difficult history to reconstruct. As we continue to learn more about our histories, both personal and collective, we can make important connections so that we do not make the same mistakes of the past that exclude groups and communities and instead work towards a more inclusive society.



Laureen’s first relatives able to claim citizenship in the U.S. Above: Suey Kay Hom found opportunity through paper sons. Below: Dong I Sing did so in the aftermath of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.





Mission Statement

Established in 1975, the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (CHSSC) unites people with a mutual interest in promoting the rich heritage of Chinese and Chinese American history. Our mission is to pursue, preserve, and communicate the history and historical role of Chinese and Chinese Americans in Southern California.

What We Do

- ◆ Organize monthly meetings and public presentations on Chinese American History.
- ◆ Sponsor and participate in symposiums, exhibits, and conferences.
- ◆ Conduct Chinatown walking tours for students and the public.
- ◆ Lead the annual Lunar New Year Golden Dragon Parade.

Research and Publication

- ◆ Publication of multiple books by renown scholars.
- ◆ The *Gum Saan Journal* is the Society's annual publication.
- ◆ Cultivates a library with thousands of titles related to Chinese American topics.
- ◆ Maintains an archive consisting of oral histories, archaeological collections, photographs, and family histories.

Please cut along the dotted line

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

411 Bernard St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: 323-222-0856
Email: info@chssc.org
Website: www.chssc.org

Make checks payable to CHSSC

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, tax ID: 95-3155357

I am interested in helping with:

- Programs
- Publications
- Research
- Publicity
- Fundraising
- Other _____

- New Membership Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Visa/MC # _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

- Silver \$ 57.
- 100 x 100 Club \$ 100.
- Diamond \$ 300.
- Student or Senior (60+) \$ 32.



Happy Holidays at CHSSC

Thirty-seven hearty members braved the rain and traffic to attend our annual Holiday Potluck at Castelar Elementary School. Table decorations provided by Susan Sing and Cindy Fong made the event festive. Talented cooks brought their favorite dishes for everyone to sample: tofu salad, Chinese chicken salad, barbecue chicken, sticky rice, black bean ribs, a lemon coconut cake, and two fruit pies. Food and fellowship were enjoyed by all. As usual, the night was ended with a Christmas carol sing-a-long accompanied on the piano by Winnie Lew.



Happy holidays from CHSSC!

Pictured left: Before joining in the festivities, partygoers sample dishes prepared and shared by CHSSC members.

Pictured right, (L-R): Mei Ong and Helen Quon celebrate the season and take a break serving the hungry guests.



Screening of typography film draws new friends

Over Thanksgiving weekend on the 24th, CHSSC welcomed about 40 people for an intimate backyard screening of *Hanzi*, co-presented with WAPOW. The documentary, which highlights Chinese typography and design, drew regulars and new audiences to CHSSC—including a Chinese-calligraphy master. Audiences stayed after the film for socializing and those who were visiting for the first time were treated to a tour by Susan Dickson, showing them around the house and exhibits. The event was to celebrate WAPOW's first year of publication. Many thanks to the student volunteers and Cinema Epoch. The film is now part of the CHSSC Library. Those interested in viewing the film may do so by visiting CHSSC during public hours on Sunday afternoons.

Photo day helpers

On December 15th, CHSSC held its 2nd photo Day at the Heritage Visitor Center in Chinatown. Long-time and newer members joined our efforts to identify both people and locations of the countless photos in our archives. It was bittersweet to remember old friends and the good times of our organization. Fun and camaraderie were shared by all.

Pictured from left to right: Margie Lew, Felicia Tabing, Michael Kusuda look through photo albums from the archives.





Notes on Chinese American History

A monthly column about Chinese American history by CHSSC member, Will Gow, Ph.D.

The December issue of the American Historical Association's *Perspectives* magazine reported on the declining number of history majors at US universities. Drawing on data from the National Center for Education Statistics, Benjamin Schmidt demonstrated that history majors in the US declined from 34,642 in 2008 to 24,266 in 2017. While there were declines across demographic groups, according to Schmidt, "the most pronounced losses have been among Asian American students, who were already underrepresented in history departments relative to their share of all students." Among Asian Americans the drop was highest among Asian American women. As a generation that came of age in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, these students have increasingly turned toward Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) majors, undoubtedly driven in part from a belief that STEM training would provide greater financial stability after graduating. As the level of college debt reaches unprecedented levels, the decline in history majors is in some ways understandable.

Yet one cannot help but wonder why Asian American students, and Asian American women in particular, are fleeing the history major in such high numbers. I'd like to posit that the declining number of Asian Americans majoring in history is driven in part by the continued marginalization of Asian American history within the field of US history. Asian American students can be forgiven for not wanting to major in a subject where they do not see themselves represented.

Even in 2018 many US history departments still fail to offer Asian American history as a subject. Instead Asian American history is more often taught in Ethnic Studies or Asian American studies departments. One need look no further than the University of California system to see that this is true. Of the ten UC schools, six have offered courses in Asian American history in the last two academic years. At four of these universities—UC

Berkeley, UCLA, UC Davis, UCSB—the course has been offered solely in Ethnic Studies or Asian American studies. At UC Irvine the course is offered in Asian American studies but cross-listed in history. At UC Riverside the course is only offered in history. This means that at four of these six UC schools, history majors have to enroll in another department—Ethnic Studies or Asian American Studies—to take the class.

The failure of US history to incorporate Asian Americans into the field of US history is not, as some might think, because Asian American history is marginal to US history. Historians like Mae Ngai and Erika Lee have shown that Asian American history is indispensable to understanding the history of US federal immigration policy. What's more, within Asian American history there is a robust body of work focusing on the history of Asian American women. Historians such as Judy Wu, Judy Yung, Catherine Ceniza Choy, Karen Leong, and Valerie Matsumoto all foregrounded the importance of Asian American women's historical experiences.

Given the continued reticence of history departments to teach Asian American history, it should come as little surprise that according to Benjamin Schmidt's *Perspectives* article, departments in "Cultural, Ethnic, and Gender Studies" actually showed a slight increase in majors in their field between 2011-2017. The lesson for history departments should be clear: now is the time to start incorporating Asian American history into your curriculum; the fate of your major might depend on it.

William Gow holds a PhD in Ethnic Studies from UC Berkeley. He is currently writing a book on Los Angeles Chinatown and its relationship to Hollywood cinema in the 1930s and 1940s. William welcomes comments and questions on his column. He can be reached at wgow@outlook.com.



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

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Website: www.chssc.org

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Community Calendar

Saturday, January 12, 2019 11:00AM-12:30PM

The Art of Chinese Calligraphy

Class taught by Ms. Si Ning, Doctor of Literature. All supplies provided, very limited season. Program for adults 18+. Free.

Arcadia Public Library
20 West Duarte Rd.
Arcadia, CA 91006

Thursday, January 31, 2019 7:00PM

The Story of Tsinoys: Chinese in the Philippines

Susie Ling, Associate Professor of History at Pasadena City College, will discuss the history of the Chinese experience in the Philippines over the past several centuries.

Cerritos Public Library, Skyline Room
18025 Bloomfield Avenue
Cerritos, CA 90703

Saturday, February 2, 2019 10:00AM-5:00PM

Lunar New Year Festival

Celebrate the Lunar New Year at the Huntington as the Year of the Pig begins. The festivities include lion dancers, mask-changing performances, martial arts, Chinese music and dance, and more.

Huntington Library and Gardens
1151 Oxford Rd.
San Marino, CA 91108

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Lunar New Year, Year of the Pig

Thursday, February 7, 2019 7:00PM-9:00PM

Opening reception at the Chinese American Museum for new *Lightscares* exhibition

Join the Chinese American Museum for the opening reception of the *Lightscares: Re-envisioning the Shanshuihua* 山水画你 (Chinese landscape painting) exhibition, featuring new media works and immersive light-based installations from contemporary Taiwanese artists Nick Dong and Wu Chi Tsung. Open to the public, free of charge.

Chinese American Museum
425 N. Los Angeles St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, April 20, 2019 beginning at 6:00PM

CHSSC Annual Golden Spike Awards 2019: *Giving Voice to the Community*

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California will host the Golden Spike Awards to honor individuals who have represented the Asian American community or interests. Honorees this year will be Russell Leong, Frank Shyong, Oliver Wang, Elaine Woo, and Helen Zia.

Ocean Star Restaurant
145 North Atlantic Boulevard, #201-203
Monterey Park, CA